

Committee Meetings

PATIENT ACCESS TO RESPONSIBLE CARE ACT; HEALTH INSURANCE BILL OF RIGHTS ACT

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Health and Environment held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1415, Patient Access to Responsible Care Act of 1997; and H.R. 820, Health Insurance Bill of Rights Act of 1997. Testimony was heard from John Eisenberg, M.D., Administrator, Agency for Health Care Policy Research, Department of Health and Human Services and public witnesses.

IRS'S SUSPENSION—AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAM

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on Civil Service held a hearing on IRS' Suspension of Its Affirmative Action Program. Testimony was heard from Charles D. Fowler, III, National Director, Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity, IRS, Department of the Treasury.

U.S. PERSONNEL OVERSEAS—SECURITY STATUS

Committee on Government Reform and Oversight: Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice met in executive session to hold a hearing on the Security Status of U.S. Personnel Overseas. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Maj. Gen. James C. King, USA, Director, Intelligence, Joints Chiefs of Staff; H. Allen Holmes, Assistant Secretary, Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict; Brig. Gen. James T. Conway, USMC, Deputy Director, Combating Terrorism, Joints Chiefs of Staff; and the following officials from the Department of State: J. Eric Boswell, Assistant Secretary, Diplomatic Security; Jacquelyn L. Williams-Bridgers, Inspector General; and Mark Gebicke, Director, Military Operations and Capabilities Issues, National Security and International Affairs Division, GAO.

U.S./CHINA RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights held a hearing on U.S./China Relations and Human Rights: Is Constructive Engagement Working? Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AMENDMENT—RESTORING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution approved for full Committee action amended H.J. Res 78, proposing an amendment to the

Constitution of the United States restoring religious freedom.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Forest and Forest Health held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1659, Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Completion Act; H.R. 2416, to provide for the transfer of certain rights and property to the United States Forest Service in exchange for a payment to the occupant of such property; and H.R. 2574, to consolidate certain mineral interest in the National grasslands in Billings County, ND, through the exchange of Federal and private mineral interest to enhance land management capabilities and environmental and wildlife protection. Testimony was heard from Senator Dorgan; Representative Earl Pomeroy; the following officials of the Forest Service, USDA: Sandra Key, Associate Deputy Chief, Programs and Legislation; and Paul Tittman, Chief Appraiser; Bob Anderson, Deputy Assistant Director, Minerals, Realty and Resource Protection, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior and public witnesses.

FORAGE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Committee on Rules: Granted by voice vote, a modified open rule on H.R. 2493, Forage Improvement Act of 1997, providing one hour of general debate with 30 minutes equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources and 30 minutes equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture. The rule limits the amendment process to three hours. The rule makes in order the Resources Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. The rule makes in order, before the consideration of any other amendment, a manager's amendment offered by Representative Smith of Oregon or his designee, which is printed in the Rules Committee report, is debatable for 10 minutes equally divided between the proponent and an opponent, is not subject to a demand for a division of the question, and if adopted will be considered as part of the base text. The rule provides priority recognition to members who pre-print their amendments in the Congressional Record. The rule also allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill, and to reduce votes to five minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a fifteen minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Smith of Oregon, Chenoweth, and Vento.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1997

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a structured rule on H.R. 1270, Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997, providing one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce and twenty minutes of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. The rule waives points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (requiring provisions in the jurisdiction of the Committee of the Budget to be referred to or reported by the Committee on the Budget). The rule provides for consideration of the bill for amendment under the five minute rule. The rule provides for the consideration of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Commerce as an original bill for the purpose of amendment. The rule waives points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute for failure to comply with clause 5(a) of rule XXI (prohibiting appropriations in authorization measures) and section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (requiring provisions in the jurisdiction of the Committee of the Budget to be referred to or reported by the Committee on the Budget). The rule also provides, notwithstanding clause 5(c) of rule XXIII (relating to motions to strike unfunded mandates), for consideration of only those amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules and that these amendments may only be offered in the order listed in the report and only by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by a proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives points of order against the last amendment printed in the Rules Committee report for failure to comply with clause 5(a) of rule XXI (prohibiting appropriations in authorization measures) and section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (requiring provisions in the jurisdiction of the Committee of the Budget to be referred to or reported by the Committee on the Budget). The rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to reduce the voting time on any postponed question to five minutes provided that that vote follows a fifteen minute vote. The rule provides that after a motion that the Committee rise has been rejected on a day, the Chairman may entertain another such motion on that day only if offered by the Majority Leader or his designee. The rule also

provides that after the motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 7 of rule XXIII) has been rejected, the Chairman may not entertain another such motion during the further consideration of the bill. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Further, the rule waives points of order against consideration in the House of S. 104 for failure to comply with section 306 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (requiring provisions in the jurisdiction of the Committee of the Budget to be referred to or reported by the Committee on the Budget). The rule provides for the consideration of a motion to strike all after the enacting clause of S. 104 and to insert in lieu thereof the provisions of H.R. 1270, as passed by the House. Finally, the rule provides that upon the adoption of the motion and the Senate bill as amended, it is in order to move that the House insist on its amendment to S. 104 and request a conference thereon.

SIGNATURES IN A DIGITAL AGE

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Technology held a hearing on Do You Know Who You Are Doing Business With? Signatures In a Digital Age. Testimony was heard from Andrew J. Pincus, General Counsel, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds approved for full Committee action the following: H.R. 623, to amend the Public Buildings Act of 1959 concerning the calculation of public building transactions; H.R. 2118, amended, Ban on Smoking in Federal Buildings Act; General Services Administration Improvement Act of 1997; 10 leasing resolutions; three amendments to previously approved resolutions; and one repair and alteration resolution.

IMPACTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE—FAMILIES RECEIVING WELFARE

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing on protecting children from the Impacts of Substance Abuse on Families Receiving Welfare. Testimony was heard from Representative Rangel; Jane Ross, Director, Income Security Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

EMPOWERMENT ZONE—ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on the performance of the Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Program. Testimony was heard from Representatives

Rangel and Hinchey; John Karl Scholz, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Tax Analysis, Department of the Treasury; Howard Glaser, Acting General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Stanley J. Czerwinski, Associate Director, Housing and Community Development, GAO; Dick Posthumus, member, Senate, State of Michigan; Karl Schmoke, Mayor, Baltimore, Maryland; Paul D. Fraim, Mayor, Norfolk, Virginia; and public witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1997

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine the maintenance of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile without testing, 2:30 p.m., SD-124.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, Subcommittee on Securities, to hold oversight hearings on securities litigation abuses, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget, to hold hearings to examine U.S. policy implications for NATO enlargement, European Union expansion and the European Monetary Union, 10 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Subcommittee on Oceans and Fisheries, to hold hearings to examine the future of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps, and S. 877, to disestablish the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Corps of Commissioned Officers, 9:30 a.m., SR-253.

Full Committee, to hold hearings on S. 943 and H.R. 2005, bills to revise Federal aviation law to declare that nothing in such law or in the Death on the High Seas Act shall affect any remedy existing at common law or under State law with respect to any injury or death arising out of any aviation incident occurring on or after January 1, 1995, 2 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation, to hold hearings on S. 638, to provide for the expeditious completion of the acquisition of private mineral interests within the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument mandated by the 1982 Act that established the monument, 2 p.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works, business meeting, to consider pending calendar and committee business, 9:30 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance, to hold hearings on the nominations of David L. Aaron, of New York, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Mary Ann Cohen, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, Margaret Ann Hamburg, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, Stanford G. Ross, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Social Security Advisory Board, Social Security Administration, and David W. Wilcox, of Vir-

ginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations, to hold hearings on the nominations of Amy L. Bondurant, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador, Terrence J. Brown, of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator for Management, Thomas H. Fox, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator for Policy and Program Coordination, and Harriet C. Babbitt, of Arizona, to be Deputy Administrator, all of the Agency for International Development, and Kirk K. Robertson, of Virginia, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, all of the Department of State, 11 a.m., SD-419.

Full Committee, to hold hearings on the nominations of Joseph A. Presel, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan, Stanley Tuemler Escudero, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, B. Lynn Pascoe, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Negotiator for Nagorno-Karabakh, Steven Karl Pifer, of California, to be Ambassador to Ukraine, Kathryn Linda Haycock Proffitt, of Arizona, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, James Catherwood Hormel, of California, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg, David B. Hermelin, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Norway, Lyndon Lowell Olson, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to Sweden, and Gerald S. McGowan, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Portugal, 2 p.m., SD-419.

Full Committee, to hold joint hearings with the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, to examine United States-Mexican cooperation in efforts to combat drugs, 2 p.m., SD-106.

Committee on Governmental Affairs, to resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition, to hold hearings to examine antitrust implications of the proposed settlement between the State Attorneys General and tobacco companies to mandate a total reformation and restructuring of how tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed in America, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Full Committee, to hold hearings on pending nominations, 2 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Indian Affairs, to hold hearings on S. 1077, to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

House

Committee on Agriculture, hearing on H.R. 2534, Agricultural Research Extension and Education Reauthorization Act of 1997, 9:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops, hearing on the Review of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Government Performance Results Act Report, 1 p.m., 1302 Longworth.